

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 2, so that the text of the amended claims reads as follows.

1.(Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising [at least 24 contiguous bases of] the nucleotide sequence [first disclosed in the NHP sequence] described in SEQ ID NO: 1.

2.(Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:

- (a) encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- (b) hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complement thereof.

Please add new claims 5-8.

-5.(New) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence of Claim 3.

6.(New) A cell comprising the expression vector of Claim 5.

7.(New) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence of Claim 4.

8.(New) A cell comprising the expression vector of Claim 7.--

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

No claims have been canceled. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. New claims 5-8 have been added. Claims 1-8 are therefore presently pending in the case. For the convenience of the Examiner, a clean copy of the pending claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up copy of the original claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.